Restrictions on acquisition of tribal land

482. SHRI PRITHIBI MAJHI : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are facing any problems created by acquisition of large areas of tribal land;

(b) if so, whether Government are considering of any restrictions to be imposed for acquisition of tribal land thereof?

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI) : (a) There is a considerably feeling of discontent among tribals on account of acquisition of large areas of their land. Government are faced with problems of satisfactory rehabilitation of tribals displaced from such acquisition. This has also created difficulties in speed, acquisition of land in tribal areas.

(b) and (c) There is no proposal at present under consideration to introduce any restrictions in the Land Acquisition Act, 1894 on acquisition of tribal land.

Assistance to Vijayanagar Steel Plant

483. SHRI D.B. CHANDRE GOWDA : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Prime Minister during his recent visit to Karnataka assured to reconsider the Vijayanagar Steel Plant;

(b) if so, what is the assurance given by Prime Minister in this regard; and

(c) the details thereof and the steps Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI MAKHAN LAL FOTEDAR) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The assurance given was that Government would reconsider the project afresh to see if it could be revived.

(c) Various alternative proposals are under formulation with a view to arriving at a viable project proposal.

Rise in the sugar prices

484. SHRI D.B. CHANDRE GOWDA : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the free sale sugar prices in the country have sharply increased during the past few months;

(b) if so, whether despite Government's warning to the sugar industry and Indian Sugar Mills Association to keep the prices on control, there has been tremendous increase in the prices of sugar; and

(c) if so, what further action Government propose to take to bring down the prices of sugar in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI SUKH RAM) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir, the recent spurt in sugar prices is due to speculative tendencies in the market because of unexpected fall in sugar production this year. Government has taken various measures to control rise in sugar price which are given in the enclosed Statement.

Statement

Steps taken to control rise in price of sugar

(1) Higher release of monthly free sale quota—5 lakh tonnes during May, 1989 and 5.50 lakh tonnes during June, 1989 and 5.00 lakh tonnes for July, 1989 as against 4.50 lakh tonnes during April, 1989.

(2) The weekly restrictions on sale and despatch of sugar by sugar factories (minimum 20% in each week of the total monthly quota) have been reimposed from May, 1989.

(3) The Khandsari manufacturers were directed to declare their stocks as on 7th May, 1989 within a period of 5 days and to sell at least 25% of their opening stock during May, 1989 and 30% for each of the subsequent month from June to September, 1989 during the respective months.

(4) The stock-holding limits of sugar with the licensed dealers have been reduced from 500 quintals to 250 quintals in cities and towns with a population of one lakh or more, and from 250 to 125 quintals in towns having a population less than one lakh. The turnover period of stocks has also been reduced to 7 days from 10 days.

In respect of Khandsari dealers, the stock-holding limits have been reduced from 500 to 250 qtls. in the country.

(5) State Governments have been advised to undertake intensive deholding operations, and ensure the enforcement of various regulatory controls applicable to dealers of sugar, Khandsari and gur.

(6) Governments of Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and West Bengal have been asked to check smuggling of sugar, gur and Khandsari, if any, to Nepal and Bangladesh.

(7) Monitoring of weekly despatches by the sugar mills is being done for taking corrective action against the defaulting mills.

(8) Arrangements have been finalised in consultations with Industry for sale of sugar at Rs. 7·75 per kg. through cooperative retail outlets in Delhi like Super Bazar, Kendriya Bhandar and Delhi Civil Supplies Corporation, etc., and at various outlets by Industry.

State Government have also been advised to make similar arrangements for sale of sugar at reasonable prices.

(9) Restrictions have been imposed on sale of sugar by one wholesaler to another whole-saler within the same city or urban area in the State of Punjab, Haryana, U.P., Bihar, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Gujarat, Maharashtra and Union Territory of Delhi.

(10) State Governments have been advised to ensure that sugar factories located in their State comply with the sale and despatch provisions and ensure sale of entire quantity within the validity period.

(11) All the sugar factories have been advised to enter details of sale of sugar in the name of the first buyer to avoid any paper transactions.

Setting up of export oriented joint ventures in food processing industries

485. SHRI D.B. CHANDRE GOWDA : Will the Minister of